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having arisen in fact under the personal professional practice of one of the authors. No credit is given in the present edition. This, while compatible with the brief character of the book, perhaps goes a step too far. Many experiments, incidents of professional practice, and instances of expert testimony by Dr. Reese are given.

The book, from pages 1 to 384, inclusive, contains the discussion of medical jurisprudence, and on pages 144-145 there is a table on the "Comparative Size of Blood Corpuscles;" from pages 385 to 653, inclusive, there is a treatise on "Toxicology or Poisoning."

The work is without a doubt of more value to medical students than to those engaged in the study and practice of law. To the medical practitioner are explained his duties at post-mortem examinations, at coroners' inquests, at court, on the witness stand and elsewhere. Legal terms are defined more for the use of doctors than of lawyers; for example, the distinction in the words "illusion," hallucination" and "delusion." Where a term has one meaning in medicine, but is narrower or broader in courts of law, that is pointed out (*e. g.* "abortion," page 220). Bits of sound advice to doctors in matters pertaining to the law are found, as: "He should never be afraid frankly to confess his ignorance. Nothing is more dangerous than for a witness to attempt to guess, for fear of being thought ignorant" (p. 26). Again: "A medical witness should confine his answers strictly to the questions put to him . . . avoiding the tendency to theorize, or speculate upon legal distinctions." There is a reasonable and thoughtful discussion on medical experts' compensation in the first portion of the book.

Taken as a whole the volume accomplishes what it undertakes. To say that it takes the place or in any similar degree satisfies the want of a more copious treatise like that of Wharton and Stillé, would be highly inaccurate. On the contrary, it accomplishes another equally important task, viz: that of presenting to legal and more particularly to medical students, a collection of fundamental principles stripped of detail and prolixity. By the labors of the editor of the present edition, a work of so much importance to students has been made to keep pace with the times.

B. H. L.

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE IN PENNSYLVANIA UNDER LEGISLATION FROM 1887 TO 1902, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS TO PRIOR ACTS (Annotated). By ALBERT D. WILSON, of the Philadelphia Bar. Pp. 268. Philadelphia: Rees Welsh & Co. 1903.

Of late years the Legislature of Pennsylvania has been active in dealing with matters of procedure. Books of practice can no longer be relied on without supplementing them with an exami-

nation of the Pamphlet Laws, which have grown both numerous and voluminous. The object of the author has been to extract from the Pamphlet Laws all the legislative enactments from 1887 to 1901, inclusive, in any wise relating to procedure at law within the jurisdictions of the Court of Common Pleas, and to annotate them as fully as possible.

The Acts of Legislation have been divided into two classes, viz: original acts in one class, and supplements and amendments in the other. In the book the arrangement is chronological and regulated by the date of the original act on the subject. The acts which are supplements or amendments to acts prior to 1887 are to be read in connection with the older Digests, those of 1887 and subsequent dates are in chronological order. In all cases each act and its supplements and amendments are in chronological order of the date of the passage of the original act. When an act exhausts the legislation of a subject, it has been treated out at the place it occurs. If it is supplementary or an amendment the author has cumulated it back to the one it supplements or amends, until he comes to the oldest legislation on the subject.

In most cases the acts are quoted verbatim from the Pamphlet Laws. Some are, however, only abstracted, and some have been passed, merely setting forth the title. Where the effort has been made to abstract the meaning of a section instead of verbatim quotations, it is generally introduced by the words "provides that."

The book supplies a long-felt want, and we think will prove a work of great value.

I. G. G. F.

THE PHYSICIAN'S DUTY TO SAFEGUARD INFORMATION ACQUIRED IN THE PROFESSIONAL RELATION. By WILLIAM A. PURRINGTON, Lecturer in the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College on The Relations of Law to Medical Practice. (Pamphlet.) P. 23. New York: Holt Bros. 1902.

That privilege, which the common law attached to communications by a client to his attorney in order that all might feel free to seek the protection of the law, was not thrown about the communications by patient to physician.

In this brief pamphlet the author treats of the various legal phases of the privilege, raised by statute in most jurisdictions, whereby communications by a patient to his physician are kept inviolate. This privilege of the patient carries with it necessarily the duty of the physician to abstain from revealing or discussing the patient's illness, without the latter's consent, unless compelled to do so by order of court. The construction of the